



NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
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Bodyfield family honored for 100 years of support to National Weather Service

NOAA will honor the Bodyfield family of rural Ericson, Neb., for the family's 100 years of service to the nation as volunteer weather observers.

Since June 21, 1911, five generations of Bodyfields have participated in the National Weather Service's volunteer weather observation program, providing precipitation and temperature data for the observation site about 8 miles west-northwest of Ericson in Garfield County. The family has provided more than 36,500 daily reports to the National Weather Service forecast office in North Platte.

Brian Hirsch, meteorologist-in-charge of the North Platte forecast office will present the Family Heritage Award to the Bodyfield family Aug. 19 during a private event at the family farm.

"The weather data collected by volunteer observers throughout the country have provided meteorologists and climate researchers with records that are vital to daily, weekly and long-term forecasting," Hirsch said. "Before we can understand how the world's climate functions, we have to know how the climate functions in our own country. The availability of information collected for more than 100 years speaks to the American determination and spirit in place since the country was founded by a group of forefathers that included weather observers."

James Bodyfield established the Ericson observing site on June 21, 1911, and served as the primary observer for 45 years. Son Marcus Bodyfield took over the site in 1956 and continued to 1975. Marcus' son Victor and his wife Juliana were primary observers from August 1975 to April 2006. Their son Jim and his wife Yvonne became primary observers in 2006. Jim and Yvonne's son Ryan is currently their back-up observer.

The family has earned considerable recognition for its efforts, along with numerous lengths of service awards. Victor and Juliana Bodyfield received the John Campanius Holm Award, the agency's second-most prestigious honor, in October 2000.

"Volunteers like the Bodyfields are crucial to National Weather Service operations," said Lynn Maximuk, Central Region Director of the National Weather Service. "Of more than 11,000 volunteer observers throughout the country, only a handful of families have been involved for a century or more."

The Cooperative Weather Observer program is a unique partnership between NOAA's National Weather Service and citizen volunteers in every U.S. state and territory. The cooperative observer program has given scientists and researchers continuous weather data since the program's inception in 1890. Today, volunteer observers provide daily reports on temperature, precipitation and other weather factors such as snow depth, river levels and soil moisture.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced

weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Visit us online at weather.gov and on [Facebook](#).

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

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